

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, MORGAN COUNCIL AND MORGAN COUNTY 911 BOARD MET IN A JOINT SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 AT 5:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (COMMISSIONERS) NORMAN VOYLES, BRIAN GOSS, AND DON ADAMS; (COUNCIL) KENNY HALE, BOB O'NEAL, BRYAN COLLIER, PAUL PRATHER, JEFF QUYLE, VICKIE KIVETT, AND RYAN GOODWIN. BRENDA ADAMS, COUNTY AUDITOR, DEB VERLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, PETE FOLEY, COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE 911 COMMITTEE WERE ALSO PRESENT.

NORMAN VOYLES CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

**FEASIBILITY STUDY** – *Dispatch Center*

911 Committee Chairman John Davis stated that the board asked for the meeting to determine what the Council and Commissioners were looking for regarding a dispatch center. Mr. Davis stated that some of the options that had been discussed were the site and one center or two and the committee would like some guidance. Tim Viles, 911 Committee Vice Chairman, asked where the money would come from and stated that he did not think it would be a problem to meet the state's requirement of reducing the number of PSAPs in the county to two. Norman Voyles asked what was recommended in the two feasibility studies. Mr. Viles stated that both reports were similar as far as size and type of building. The difference was in the recommendation for the site location. Mr. Voyles stated that it was his opinion that they need to decide whether there will be two centers or one before they decide on the site. Mr. Viles stated that he thought the Mayor of Martinsville and the Mooresville Town Council should also have a say. Vickie Kivett asked if the 911 Committee would make a recommendation to the Commissioners. Mr. Viles stated that they would, but they wanted guidelines from the Council and Commissioners before making a recommendation. Bob O'Neal asked if the 911 Fund would be able to support the personnel. Mr. Viles stated that was one of his questions too.

Terry Burnworth, Pyramid Architecture, stated that he has designed 12 dispatch centers around the state and has done more studies than that. His recommendation was to go with one facility with a backup in Johnson County. The center will require approximately 21 or 22 employees. Mr. Burnworth also recommended an advisory board.

Jim Willison and Spike Shepler, Advanced Communications, stated that they outlined the options in their report and did not recommend either one center or two. The report recommended approximately 22 employees to operate the center. Mr. Shepler stated that operating two centers would require more personnel and would be redundant. Mr. Shepler stated that none of the PSAPs in the county have the required equipment and none of the current facilities are large enough to support the required additional staff or large enough to expand. Mr. Willison stated that having fewer centers would not significantly lower operating costs, but it would provide better services to the public because the departments could support each other during incidents.

Other topics discussed were remodeling existing facilities, and possible sites for a new building.

In an audience poll, the few who responded seemed in favor of one dispatch center and using another county for backup.

Dave Allison, Harrison Township Fire Department, stated that he submitted a letter to the Council and Commissioners stating that the Morgan County Fire Chiefs' Association is in favor of centralized dispatching.

Steve Elzroth, a dispatcher in the county, stated that SB345 provides that 911 revenue will no longer be used to build, operate, or maintain physical facilities but does allow the funds to be used for salaries, software, hardware, and phone equipment. Mr. Elzroth stated that a new county agency would have to be established in order to run the center and they would also need to establish a personnel structure, policies and procedures, salaries, benefit packages, and continued funding.

John Davis stated that one thing that wasn't mentioned was a shared dispatch center.

Will Davis stated that currently, when two departments are dispatched, they talk over each other and neither one can be understood.

Mike McCool, Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department Chief, stated that two dispatch centers dispatch multiple agencies to the same incident and the "left hand doesn't know what the right

hand is doing.” Mr. McCool stated that he is concerned with the safety of the public servants that are on the job. Having adequate staffing in one central place insures that everyone knows what is going on.

Terry Burnworth stated that if one dispatch center is formed, there will be one SOP and the pay scales would be acclimated over time.

Spike Shepler stated that their staffing analysis used the highest rate of pay, which was Martinsville, and the anticipated amount is \$1.5 million compared to the current amount of \$1.46.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Morgan County Council

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Norman Voyles

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Kenny Hale

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Brian Goss

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Robert O’Neal

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Don Adams

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Bryan Collier

Attest:

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Paul Prather

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Brenda Adams, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Jeff Quyle

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Vickie Kivett

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Ryan Goodwin